

REMARKS**Amendment to the Specification**

The Specification was amended to correct typographical errors in the “Brief Description of the Drawings” section. Specifically, incorrect figure numbers in the section were corrected. No new matter has been added. Entry is requested.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-15 have been canceled. Claims 16-21 have been withdrawn in reply to the Restriction Requirement with traverse. Claims 16 and 17, which are dependent from Claim 1, have been amended to become independent claims in light of the cancellation of Claim 1. As discussed in the phone conference with the Examiner on October 11, 2007, new Claims 22-39 have been added to more clearly define Applicants’ invention. New Claims 22-39 are all directed to the elected group, i.e., Group I, a method of distinguishing between rice varieties. Claims readable on the elected species, i.e., “g. the method variation of claim 10,” include new Claims 22-26, 34, 38 and 39. Support for new Claims 22-26 can be found, e.g., in Table 1 and Claims 1-2 as filed. Support for new Claims 27-39 can be found in Claims 3-15 as filed, respectively. No new matter has been added. Entry is requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By David E. Brook

David E. Brook

Registration No. 22,592

Telephone: (978) 341-0036

Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

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